

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REGIONAL BRIEFING OF GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE IEA ALLOCATION SYSTEMS TEST

1. IN APRIL THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY WILL BEGIN A
SECOND TEST OF ITS EMERGENCY OIL ALLOCATION SYSTEM. THIS
TEST WILL INVOLVE NOT ONLY THE IEA SECRETARIAT AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OIL INDUSTRY BUT ALSO THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY SHARING ORGANIZATIONS (NESO'S) BEING ESTAB-
LISHED IN EACH MEMBER COUNTRY TO HANDLE THE DOMESTIC
ALLOCATION OF OIL DURING EMERGENCY PERIODS. SINCE THE
NESO'S WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIRST TEST OF THE SYSTEM,
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THE IEA SECRETARIAT HAS SCHEDULED A SERIES OF REGIONAL
BRIEFINGS FOR KEY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO WILL PARTICI-
PATE IN NESO OPERATIONS DURING THE FORTHCOMING EXERCISE.
THE IEA SECRETARIAT HAS ARRANGED ONE SUCH MEETING TO BE
HELD IN TOKYO ON MARCH 7 WITH THE IDEA THAT IN ADDITION
TO THE JAPANESE, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US, CANADA
AND NEW ZEALAND WOULD PARTICIPATE.

2. THE U.S. APPRECIATES JAPANESE WILLINGNESS TO HOST SUCH A MEETING AND BELIEVES THAT A TOKYO SETTING IS HELPFUL PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF OBTAINING ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF THE JAPANESE IN TEST ACTIVITIES.

HOLDING THE MEETING IN TOKYO WILL MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF JAPANESE WORKING LEVEL PARTICIPANTS IN THE BRIEFING AND SHOULD BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR THE TEST.

3. AT THE SAME TIME THE U.S. HAS A CENTRAL, INDEED, UNIQUE ROLE IN THE TEST. TWENTY OF THE THIRTY-ONE REPORTING COMPANIES WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED ARE U.S. BASED COMPANIES. THE INTERREATION BETWEEN THESE COMPANIES, THE IEA SECRETARIAT AND THE U.S. NESO WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE TEST. IT IS THUS IMPERATIVE THAT U.S. NESO OFFICIALS ALSO BE PROPERLY BRIEFED AND THAT PROBLEMS, WHICH MAY BE UNIQUE TO THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF OUR OIL MARKET, BE ADEQUATELY COVERED. THIS MIGHT BE DIFFICULT IN A ONE-DAY MEETING INVOLVING FOUR COUNTRIES WITHOUT MONOPOLIZING THE DISCUSSIONS. IN ADDITION, DISTANCE, TRAVEL TIME AND BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS INVOLVED WOULD LIMIT THE NUMBER OF U.S. OFFICIALS WHO COULD PARTICIPATE AND BE BRIEFED IN THE TOKYO MEETING.

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4. FOR ALL THESE REASONS, THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE MORE ADVISABLE TO SCHEDULE A SEPARATE BRIEFING FOR U.S. NESO OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE, THEREFORE, REQUESTED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SET-UP SUCH A MEETING THE WEEK OF MARCH 12. IN REQUESTING THIS CHANGE WE HAVE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED THE SECRETARIAT TO PROCEED WITH ITS PLANS FOR THE TOKYO BRIEFING IN ORDER TO FACILITATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT, JAPANESE AND THE OFFICIALS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHO MAY ATTEND.

5. EMBASSY TOKYO SHOULD PASS THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ABOVE MESSAGE TO MR. HYODO, HEAD OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY RESOURCES DIVISION, STRESSING OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE WILLINGNESS OF THE JAPANESE TO HOST SUCH A MEETING, THE REASONS FOR OUR DECISION TO SEEK A SEPARATE BRIEFING FOR U.S. OFFICIALS AND OUR STRONG RECOMMENDATION TO THE SECRETARIAT THAT THEY PROCEED WITH THE TOKYO BRIEFING EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF U.S. PARTICIPATION. CHRISTOPHER

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Draft Date: 19 jan 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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